

the **Almagest**

September 19, 2002

LSUS Student News

Volume 42, Number 2

Financial Aid tightens upby
Jennifer Knafla

After processing \$3.5 million in financial aid this fiscal year, the LSUS financial aid system was told by federal auditors to tighten up on the class withdrawal penalization on students.

LSUS financial aid had its first federal audit since the school has been open in the 2001 spring semester. According to Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs, while as a whole the audit came out well, there was a problem with the practice of students being able to drop a course without penalization.

Students were able to drop courses up until a certain date in the semester and receive a W on their transcript. When computed into their completion percentage, the W counted as a 100 percent completion.

For students on financial aid who have to be attending at least 12 hours a semester, the W still counted as a completion of the course.

Before the change, the W would not show up on the student's record and, thus, there was no penalty.

The federal audit said that the



Photo by Matt Morris

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Gloria Raines, explains the financial aid guidelines to the faculty senate last Friday

system needed to take into account a W as a 75 percent completion instead of the full 100.

Financial aid students who are required to be full time need to realize that receiving a W for a dropped course and having only three other courses on their schedule will penalize them with their federal financial aid.

"It's important to educate the students on this new system," Raines said at the Sept. 13 Faculty Senate meeting.

Also at the Faculty Senate meeting, the system of repeat/delete was discussed with concerns voiced about students who were graduating

with less than 2.0 overall GPAs.

The overall GPA takes into account all the grades earned by the student including those that were deleted by taking the course over again.

However, the deleted grade does stay on the transcript and is considered when students apply for graduate and professional schools.

Also discussed at the meeting was the no-gun policy. Faculty expressed concern about violations of the no fire arms allowed on campus policy stating that there was a loop hole in which persons are allowed to bring guns on campus but that the firearms must stay in their car.

Athletic council picks up women's soccer, return of basketballby
Dominic Claiborne

The athletic council has recommended bringing women's soccer and men's and women's basketball to LSUS.

The new sports are to be paid for by the athletic fee, which increased from \$10 to \$65 this semester.

Bringing women's sports to LSUS would end the possible violation of Title IX, the federal law that requires public universities to offer equal athletic opportunities for men and women if students show an interest.

The new teams are expected to begin play in the 2003-2004 academic year, if approved by Chancellor Vincent Marsala.

Softball had also been considered, but the council voted seven to one in favor of soccer after considering costs, demand and a survey of high school female athletes.

Scheduling was also a factor, as soccer would bring a fall sport to LSUS.

Jeff Strozier and Rebecca Huffty of the Student Government Association voiced student support for soccer, though they said that student opinion was evenly divided.

Dr. Terry Harris, chair of the Athletic Council said, "This was not a spur-of-the-moment decision."

The SGA passed a proposal to increase the athletic fee in the fall of

1999 after concerns about Title IX were raised.

In the time since, the athletic council has been in the process of planning the new athletic programs.

Marty Albritton, vice chancellor for development, said there were many factors in the decision to add these new sports, "such as the sports at fellow NAIA schools and the number of sports at local high schools."

If Marsala accepts the council's recommendation, the next step is hiring coaches and an athletic director to replace recently retired Larry Rambin.

Harris chaired the committee when they led the search for current baseball coach Rocke Musgraves.

"Members of the search committee are not necessarily limited to the Athletic Council," Harris said.

He also said that the new athletic director could be a current faculty member.

"Or someone could be hired so that they could devote their full time to the position," Harris said.

The council recommended that a full-time athletic director be hired quickly, and the university is currently searching for candidates.

The athletic council also discussed plans for the renovation of the baseball field, including the addition of concessions stands and restrooms.

However, the university is still waiting on plans from the architect before continuing this project.

Admin. gives directions for traffic at LSUSby
Curtis Drayden

According to traffic and parking regulations, a new parking permit is required each fall semester. The \$20 parking and safety fee pays for the permit.

This fall, after paying fees, students received only one parking permit. However, a student can request two more from the business office in the Administration Building.

On occasion, a student may get more than his allotted three stickers.

"For instance, you replaced a car you can take the old sticker off and take it to the Business Office and they will issue you another, if everything is in order," said Bill Thomas, accounting specialist in the administration building.

Normally only one parking permit is issued at a time, but Thomas

said that there was no particular reason for the practice other than it is what the Business Office was accustomed to doing.

"You are limited to those cars that have a permit on them for parking purposes," Thomas said.

"If you lose the parking stickers and someone else finds them, you are liable for the ticket or tickets acquired by their use," said Lt. Ron Parker, chief of campus police.

Each permit has a number, which is assigned to the student when issued.

"Mom and Dad do not read the traffic and parking regulations," Parker said referring to the green brochure that students receive after paying fees. "If a permit is misplaced or just on the wrong car, Mom and Dad park in the wrong area and you (the student) are liable.

It doesn't matter how long they were in the building or if they were

just visitors. The officer cannot tell," Parker said.

Parker has seen all kinds of tricks by students who did not want to pay their parking fee. "Of course, there are those students who know they are going to get ticketed and offer to pay in advance," Parker said.

Students can appeal parking tickets to the Traffic and Parking Committee.

Faculty members who park in student parking areas can be ticketed as well.

Parker also said that tickets are given to those who do not follow the directions of an officer while he is directing the traffic on campus. "He knows what he is doing. He will get you out as quickly as possible," Parker said.

Parker said that he invites any suggestions to making traffic and parking better on campus. To make a suggestion, call 797-5082.

Graduate
joins
White
House
staff

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'The
Waiting
Room'
Starts
Friday

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The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge
(as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's
Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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Who cares what you think? Nobody!

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From the editor

Dear Freshmen

LSUS is probably not what you thought college would be like.

The idea most of us have about college life probably falls somewhere in between the shenanigans of Animal House and the high pressure race to compete in The Paper Chase.

Well LSUS isn't Harvard and isn't LSU.

LSUS isn't Ivy League nor is it a party school.

Many people say college years are about celebrating being young. Often this means experimenting with drugs and alcohol. That's your choice and you shouldn't let the expectations of others dictate what you do. If you do, be warned that you'll probably regret it.

That isn't what LSUS is about though.

Fraternities and sororities don't have houses with hedonistic parties every weekend, mainly because when LSUS became a four-year school, Louisiana politics forced us to agree not to have dorms.

We are what is commonly called a "commuter campus."

After class, most students flee to the parking lots so they can get to work on time.

After noon on Friday the entire campus is a ghost town.

But for the first few weeks of the semester the faculty and staff of LSUS work to fight this image and help new students feel at home.

Get involved. You've heard the slogan, but what does it really mean?

The people in the student activities office spend a lot of time and money trying to get students to be involved.

It is said that involved students are better students. LSUS tries to cultivate the kind of overachievers that can be found at Ivy League schools, without the attitude.

If students feel involved in campus life they are more likely to stay at LSUS.

The programs and organizations funded by your \$90 student activities fee are here to give you something to come to school for besides class.

But the staff of student activities can't create a student life for the campus if students don't want to be here.

A lot of people probably don't want to be here because they are forced to be here. Parents and society have convinced us that the thing to do after graduating from high school is go to college.

But we're adults now, and it is our choice to be here. Students who go to college for the sake of being in college are less likely to succeed.

So there are few things every student should think about. One of the most important questions any entering freshman can ask is: Why am I here?

No, we're not talking about the big question of life, the universe and everything. There are religious organizations and classes in literature and philosophy to help you figure this out. (And, knowing me, that's what the rest of this semester's editorials will be about.)

Be here now. Why are you at LSUS?

Though we're expected to pick a major immediately, we are by no means bound to this choice for the rest of our lives. Your major does not define you.

Your choices are what define you and college opportunities give you a chance to make these choices.

One of the most important things any student



needs to learn to be a success is time management.

As a freshman, learn to balance your classes, extracurricular activities, family and social life right now.

Don't put too much pressure on yourself. You can't do everything.

When we were wee freshmen, we were told that each semester gets a little harder.

Supposedly the third semester, or fall of your sophomore year, is the hardest.

After this you begin taking more classes in your field of study.

As you take classes that reinforce what you have already learned, the material comes more easily to you.

Then you get into classes that you actually want to take.

A lot of people complain about the general education requirements, but they are designed to help you explore different areas of learning to be a more well-rounded person.

Speech, composition, algebra and foreign languages are the bane of many students, but all provide vital skills for your development. We aren't saying you don't have a right to be annoyed to take these classes, but take them for what they're worth.

Every class is an opportunity, and you might as well take advantage of them while you can.

Other opportunities the school provides include the aforementioned organizations.

The reason these organization exist is so that students with common interests can meet and socialize.

Take time to get to know your fellow students. They have a lot to teach you.

Don't be afraid to talk to your professors. If you don't understand something, talk to the professor during office hours.

LSUS is blessed to have a faculty that cares about its students and professors who are willing to take the time to help you learn.

Most importantly, make sure that what you are doing is what you want to do. If you spend your whole day stressing out about expectations others have for you, you won't be happy with yourself.

You're the only person you really have to live with, and there really isn't any reason why you should ever do something you don't want to do.

Of course, hopefully what you want to do is study, be involved in half a dozen organizations and have an active role in student government.

If not, don't sweat it. That's your business.

By the way, get some sleep now. You probably won't get to again for four years.

-mm

Clarifications

In our story on LSUS fraternities and sororities we misspelled the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Susan G. Komen Foundation is holding "Race for the Cure" on Sept. 21 at Mall St. Vincent. Registration starts 7:30 a.m. SGA is helping with this event as part of their Volunteer Day. Every student is invited to join the staff of the Almagest. We are looking for reporters, artists and photographers at any time. Don't be intimidated. It's fun.

LSUS presents 'The Waiting Room'

Play opens Friday at 7 p.m. in the UC Theatre

by
Jennifer Knafla

"Just the way I feel about my tits." This line, pulled from the script of LSUS Communications Department's production of Lisa Loomer's "The Waiting Room," is the jumping-off point for a production that seeks to present a wild ride through medical and sexual politics. The play is scheduled for Sept. 20, 21, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 22 and 29 at 3 p.m. in the University Center Theatre. Partially funded by a grant from

the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, tickets will be available at the LSUS bookstore. Students, both college and high school, as well as faculty, staff, seniors and military may purchase tickets for \$5. Adult tickets are \$10. Directed by communications department instructor Mary "Jorji" Jarzabek, the play is a dark comedy that focuses on the price that women have paid for beauty. The play features three women of different centuries who meet in a doctor's office where the subjects of husbands, Freud, the drug industry

and the FDA come under examination. The lead character, Wanda, is a modern gal from New Jersey who is having problems with her breast implants. Playing the lead role is Shanté Caldwell, a senior speech pathology major. "The play addresses issues prevalent in today's society," Caldwell said. "It's a way of exposing issues that people don't generally want to talk about." Included in the female cast are Reagan Cassanova as Victoria, Monica Burton, mass communications major, as Forgiveness From Heaven, Andria Flournoy as Brenda and Stacey Bass, sociology major, as Bridget and Cerise. Male actors include Eugen Crook as Dr. McCaskill, Don McCoy as Oliver, Charles Montgomery as Larry, Danny Rogers, a freshman, as Ken and Nicholas Chiatrano, a senior public relations major, as Blessing From Heaven. Mollie Schmeltzer, the technical services coordinator for the university Theatre, is the set designer/technical director. Chris Alexander, senior journalism major, is engineering sound/audio effects. Assisting with costumes, make-up and lighting are LSUS students Kim Lewis and Stephanie Culbreath. Make reservations by calling 797-5318.

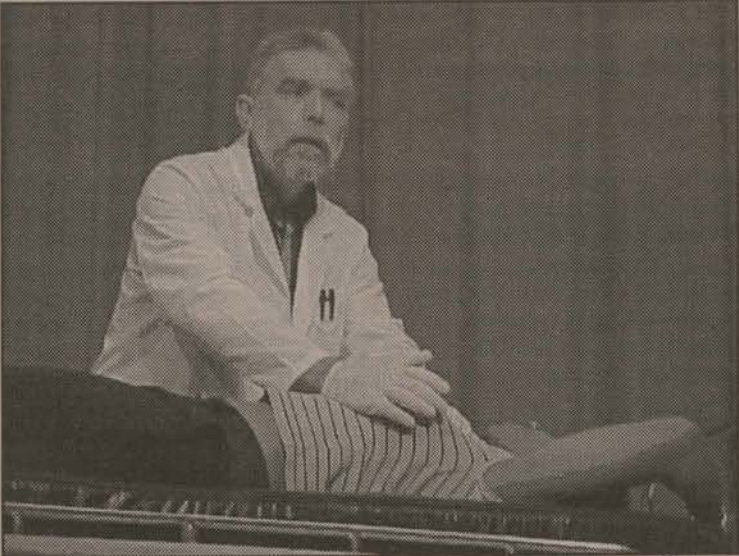


Photo by Dominic Claiborne
Eugen Crook as Dr. McCaskill examines Shanté Caldwell, playing the lead Wanda during a rehearsal of "The Waiting Room," which opens Friday at 7 p.m. in the UC Theater

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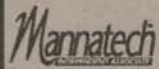
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Applications and Nominations are being accepted through Wednesday, September 25, 2002, for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The application forms can be obtained from your dean or department chair or from Student Affairs in the Administration Building, Room 208. Only Juniors, Seniors and Graduate Students are eligible.

Calendar of events			Thurs. Sept. 19	Fri. Sept. 20	Sat. Sept. 21	Sun. Sept. 22
All events are in the University Center unless otherwise indicated. If your organization would like to be featured in the calendar of events email us at almagest@pilot.lsus.edu .			10:30 a.m. Black Student Association Red River Room	7 p.m. "The Waiting Room" UC Theater Adults \$10 Students/Military/Seniors \$5 Call 797-5318	7 p.m. "The Waiting Room" UC Theater Adults \$10 Students/Military/Seniors \$5 Call 797-5318	3 p.m. "The Waiting Room" UC Theater Adults \$10 Students/Military/Seniors \$5 Call 797-5318
			Bible Fellowship Pilots Room	9 p.m. BCM Crossroads		
			SGA Meeting Webster Room			
			7 p.m. Chi Alpha DeSoto Room			
Mon. Sept. 23	Tues. Sept. 24	Wed. Sept. 25	Thurs. Sept. 26	Fri. Sept. 27	Sat. Sept. 28	Sun. Sept. 29
	10:30 a.m. CSU Meeting Pilots Room	12 p.m. BCM Lunch/ Devotional	10:30 a.m. Bible Fellowship Pilots Room	7 p.m. "The Waiting Room" UC Theater Adults \$10 Students/Military/Seniors \$5 Call 797-5318	7 p.m. "The Waiting Room" UC Theater Adults \$10 Students/Military/Seniors \$5 Call 797-5318	3 p.m. "The Waiting Room" UC Theater Adults \$10 Students/Military/Seniors \$5 Call 797-5318
	SAB Meeting DeSoto Room		SGA Meeting Webster Room	9 p.m. BCM Crossroads		
	Candidate Informational Meeting, SGA Pilot's Room		Fall Fiesta			
	7 p.m. BCM Worship Service		7 p.m. Chi Alpha DeSoto Room			

Noel Library implements online catalog

by
Dominic Claiborne

Gone are the days of having to come to the library to renew materials or place a hold on items that are checked out.

During the summer, the library implemented a new software system that includes a new online catalog. Students may access the new catalog at [http://lsus.louislibraries.org/uhtbin/webcat](http://lsus.louislibraries.org/uhtbin/webcathttp://lsus.louislibraries.org/uhtbin/webcat)

"I'm really excited about making students aware of what the new software has to offer," said Carla Clark, head of Access Services and Systems.

With the new online catalog, students may view their accounts to see what materials they have checked out, when the items are due back and whether any fines are owed.

To view account information, simply go to the online catalog and click on "My Account." The user ID is the student's nine-digit social security number. All user PINs are initially set to CHANGEME.

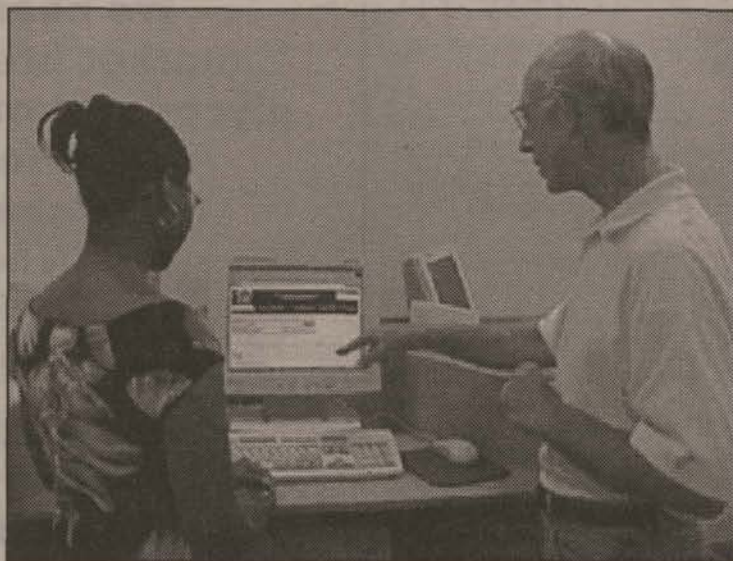


Photo by Dominic Claiborne
Bill Peters, reference librarian, shows the new computer system to Audrey Moore a freshman sociology major

Clark said that she highly recommends changing your PIN after your initial visit to the site by clicking on the "My Account" feature.

To access the online indexes and databases from off-campus, use both the nine-digit social security

number and PIN.

Since the system is slightly confusing to some, the reference desk is available to assist with searching the online indexes and databases. For at-home help, call the reference desk at 797-5068 during

business hours.

"There is no such thing as a stupid question," said Julie Wood, head reference librarian. "Students and patrons shouldn't hesitate to come to one of the librarians for help."

Students can receive one-on-one instruction on how to use the new software from the reference desk.

Instructors are also able to schedule a time for their classes to come over and receive instruction on how to use the software as well as other aspects of the library.

"Last year over 1,100 students came to the library with their class," said Wood. New circulation policies were also implemented over the summer including overdue fines of 20 cents per day for each item checked out.

Planned for the future is a redesigned library Web site that will include an electronic request form for Interlibrary Loan Materials.

Also to be made available will be a list of books and materials such as notes and articles that a professor may have put on reserve for a particular class.

Youth enhancement program to start on campus in the spring

by
Carla Seymour

LSUS is making college life easier for students with children, while at the same time enhancing their children's education.

The Division of Continuing Education at LSUS and Amanda Joy Bell, the events coordinator for the Institute for Human Services and Public Policy, have collaborated to create the new program College Kids.

"College Kids is a youth enhancement program for the children of students at Louisiana State University in Shreveport," said Bell.

Bell wants parents to understand that this program is not a daycare for children.

The program is about education for the children and will offer tutorials, time for homework, art and learning enhancement activities such as books, puzzles, and games, Bell said.

The activities will take place Monday through Wednesday beginning at 5:30 p.m. and continuing until 9:30 p.m.

Bell also said that the events of the evening will be structured and organized.

"The children are split up into groups of five, according to their ages," she said. "There is a maximum of 15 children allowed to attend per evening." Bell explained that this will ensure that each child receives the full benefits of the program.

The Department of Continuing Education and Bell are not only excited about the benefits the children will receive from College Kids but also the advantage this program will give to the parents.

It is the hope of the two organizations that the enrollment of single parents at LSUS will increase as a result of the establishment of College Kids.

While the children are receiving the nightly attention they need, such as help with their homework, their parents are able to attend evening classes and work on their own educations.

Bell also made the point that this program is promoting a college education to the children. "They are introduced to the college setting, and can see first-hand the importance of a college education."

Two teachers have been hired to instruct the events. Bell explained that both are required to be certified in CPR and must go through in-service training at the LSUS Agricultural Center.

One of the teachers is currently an education major at LSUS and the other is an art teacher at Calvary Baptist Academy.

Bell also said that any students who may be interested in participating can receive University 200 credit.

It is preferred that these students are education majors, but it is not a requirement.

College Kids has gained popularity among the administration at

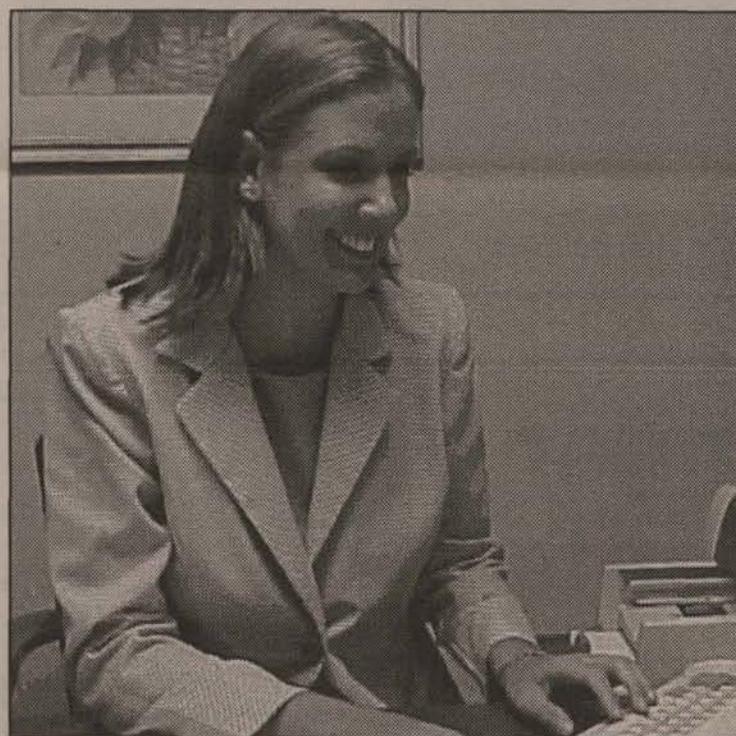


Photo by Chris Alexander
Amanda Joy Bell, events coordinator for the Institute for Human Services has helped coordinate College Kids.

LSUS.

"They have offered a great amount of support, and it is greatly appreciated," Bell said. She said that the faculty support has a lot to do with much of the establishment of the program.

The Department of Continuing Education, Bell and the Institute for Human Services and Public Policy have been working hard on the project for the past seven months and plan to launch College Kids in the 2003 spring semester.

Both departments are very excited and believe that the program will be a great success on campus.

Those who would like more information, should contact Amanda Joy Bell in BH 349 or call (318) 795-4262.

To register a child, sign up for course #032COLL001 with the Division of Continuing Education and Public Service in Bronson Hall by calling 797-5262, going online at www.lsus.edu/ce, or by filling out the registration form in the fall schedule.

The cost of the College Kids program will be \$15 per child per night, and the children must be registered for the entire semester.

No drop-ins are allowed.

Blakeney harmonizes with LSUS faculty/staff

by
Jennifer Knafla

As an adjunct at LSUS for the past 14 years, Dr. LaWanda Blakeney is one of 16 persons to join the faculty this semester.

With a doctorate in musicology from the University of Texas in Austin, Blakeney is now an assistant professor in the Department of Fine Arts, Foreign Language and Humanities.

Teaching five classes a semester for the past several years, Blakeney has improved the music education offered by applying for and winning grants.

The money won has been used to improve and upgrade the equipment used by the students. In 1997, grant money was used to buy the keyboards that are now in use in the Piano Lab located in Bronson Hall room 346. Blakeney is currently trying for another grant that she plans to use to buy a server for the lab.

Currently, LSUS offers no music degrees. "I am thinking about developing a music minor program, but right now I'm still just thinking," Blakeney said.

Also joining the faculty are Stanley Hays in the Department of Accounting and Business Law and Timothy Shaughnessy in the Department of Economics and Finance. John Masters, Sanja Menon and Wolfgang Hinck join the Department of Management and Marketing.

Diane Knight and Ruth Ray join the Department of Education. Robert Alford and Ronald Sereg join the Department of Communications.

Diane Boyd joins faculty in the Department of English. Sharon Green and Blake Dunnivant join the Department of History and Social Sciences. Sudhir Malik joins the Department of Chemistry and Physics.

Marjan Trutschl and Wanda Moseley join the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

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LSUS graduate Reed Dickens serves as assistant press secretary for president

by
Julie Petchak

An education from LSUS can take you anywhere, even straight to the White House.

Reed Dickens, who graduated in 2000 with a B.A. degree in public relations, is now an assistant press secretary for President Bush. He is one of only eight people who travel with the President at all times.

One aspect of his job is to always be prepared to set up a press

conference allowing the President to speak to the public at any time, regardless of where the President is at the time.

"He is always the President, 24 hours a day and seven days a week," Dickens said. "So he must always be ready to speak to the people."

Dickens moved to Austin, Texas, and began his career with the Bush campaign as a volunteer when his many letters to the headquarters failed to get him a paid job.

After volunteering for about a month and getting to know the department heads, Dickens told each of them he needed a job and was hired onto the staff.

When the Florida votes were recounted, he was transferred from the campaign headquarters in Austin to Florida.

Many of the staff members went home during the recount, but Dickens stayed until the end.

Bush made it clear he wanted all who helped with the election and recount to be considered first for jobs on the White House staff.

"I expected to be sent to one of the bureaus," Dickens said. "I was shocked when they called me and told me I'd gotten a job in the West Wing."

Dickens worked as a press aid for several months until there was a sudden opening for one of the two jobs as assistant press secretary for the President.

In this position, Dickens serves directly under Ari Fleischer, the chief spokesman.

One thing most people don't

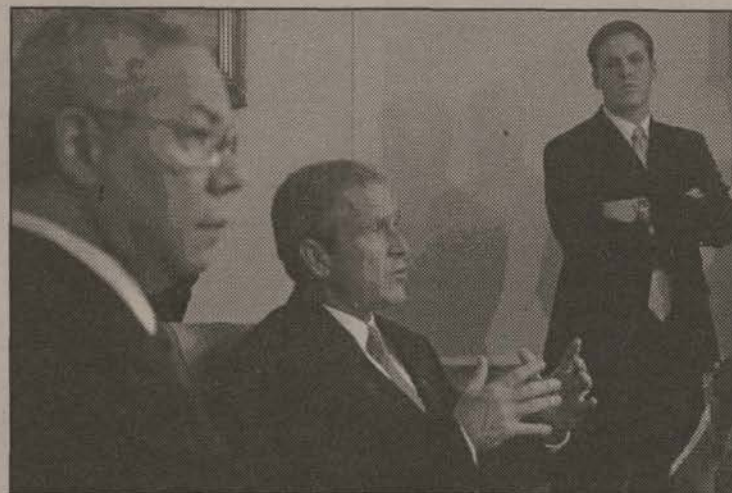


Photo courtesy of LSUS News
Reed Dickens watches as President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell give a press conference.

know about the president, that Dickens says he sees every day, is that the President is hilarious.

"He's a regular person," Dickens said, "who has a really important job."

"When we're on his ranch, he'll gather us, hand out chain saws and say 'Let's go liberate some oak trees,'" Dickens said.

Ranchers in Texas must get rid of cedar trees because their large root systems suffocate and kill the oak trees. This is why the President calls himself an "oak tree liberator," Dickens said.

Although Dickens started his career working with people his age who graduated from Ivy League

schools, he said that he was not intimidated, because he had all the skills and knowledge he needed to succeed. Now he works mainly with people twice his age.

Dickens said that the problem-solving and communication skills that he learned at LSUS have prepared him to succeed on a national scale.

Even the little things he was taught prepared Dickens for his present profession.

"Being on time is a religion to the President," Dickens said. "One day I was a couple minutes late and arrived just in time to see the taillights of the motorcade driving away."

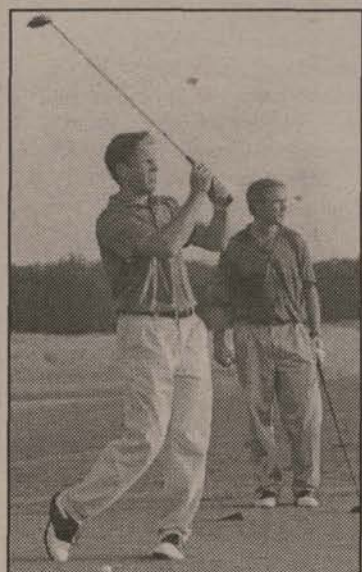


Photo courtesy of LSUS News

President George W. Bush admires LSUS graduate Reed Dickens' golf swing.

KDAQ, more than just classical music

by
Chris Ross

The Red River Radio Network is more than just classical music.

If your interest in music is as rich and diverse as Louisiana's cultural and musical heritage, you will want to tune into KDAQ at 89.9 FM. You will discover the many choices of non-commercial music programming available to the listener from traditional blues, to modern jazz, to alternative contemporary music.

Classical music has always been associated with KDAQ, but besides their classical format, KDAQ showcases many musical styles to satisfy just about any listener.

The challenge for KDAQ is to get more people in the listening area aware of the many other musical choices.

General Manager Si Sikes said, "We want people to be aware that we offer other diverse programming besides classical music and news each day."

"People can pick up brochures at our station, or log on to our website at www.redriverradio.com to know the latest in programming information," Sikes said.

For the informed listener who has a taste for music beyond what's available on commercial radio, here's a sample of the varied musical programming presented by KDAQ.

A new and well-received program called No Cover featured every Sunday at 7 p.m. has live local music on the radio.

"We realized that there's a tremendous amount of musical talent here in Shreveport-Bossier as well as our entire coverage area. We felt it was time the public became aware of this fact via public radio," said host Adam Giblin.

It features musical styles ranging from folk and bluegrass to classical, gospel, blues, jazz and more, with a focus on live performances and interviews.

This show recognizes the depth and diversity of the local talent pool and gives them the live forum.

For the listener who wants to become more familiar with American popular music's roots and the music that made it popular, Nick Spitzer hosts American Routes on Saturdays at 10 p.m.

This program covers the vast American musical landscape.

Those who prefer alternative adult contemporary music can tune

in on Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. as host David Dye presents the familiar with the cutting-edge on World Café.

This program spotlights the music of the new and emerging artists in the world of alternative adult contemporary music.

Those who can't get enough jazz can tune in Monday through Wednesday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 9 p.m. for Evening Jazz.

This program is for the jazz lover or the listener just becoming acquainted with jazz. either will find listening pleasure, because the entire jazz spectrum is covered from the traditional to the contemporary.

"I hope people find my program informative and entertaining," said host Wally Derleth. "For me the best part is receiving requests and listener feedback each night."

Big band music airs on Fridays at 9 p.m. for those who enjoy the popular American music of the 1930s and 40s on Big Band Jump.

For the blues lover and those who want to discover the roots of all popular music tune in to Blues After Hours hosted by John Ellis on Monday through Wednesday at 10 p.m.

This program features the best in blues and roots music beginning

in the 1920s to the 21st century from around the area.

The blues odyssey continues Blues Before Sunrise on Sundays at 12 a.m. to 5 a.m.

The program features many obscure and early blues artists that heavily influenced the development of today's popular music.

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LSUS graduate John Vassar now works with those who taught him

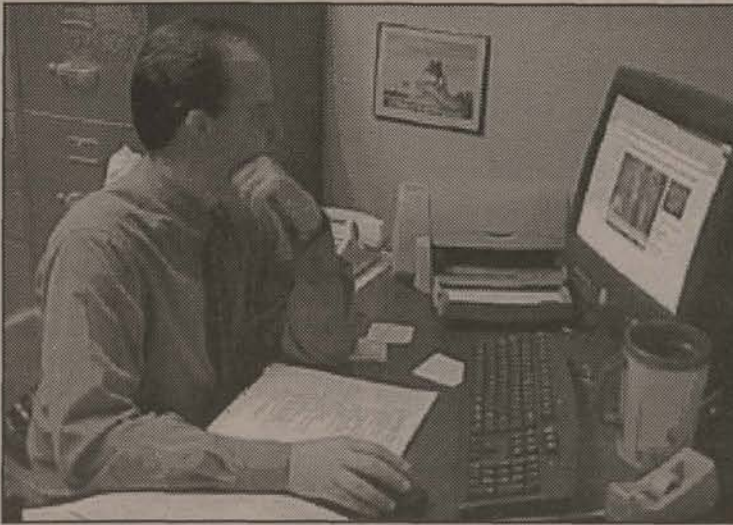


Photo by Dominic Claiborne

John Vassar, philosophy guru, graduated from LSUS in 1991. He is now working on his Ph.D degree from Baylor University.

by
Jamie Gilmore

As a former student of the university, John Vassar is now working alongside some of the teachers who at one time taught and encouraged him.

"One of the reasons I got into teaching was due to the encouragement of some of the faculty that are still here," Vassar said. "The people that used to be my professors now treat me as a colleague and that's been really nice and very unexpected."

Vassar is an assistant professor of humanities in the fine arts department at LSUS.

Vassar entered LSUS in 1987 as a young, energetic student. Almost 15 years later, Vassar can still be found on campus, not as a student, but as a member of the faculty.

A history major, Vassar graduated from LSUS in 1991, married and moved to Dallas, Texas, where he received his master's degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Vassar also taught at Baylor before moving back to Shreveport to teach.

He said he has noticed a lot of changes in the area since he went to school here.

"This area is definitely more developed now than it was then. There were a lot of cotton fields," he said. "Although now there are more distractions for the students."

One of the main things Vassar likes about teaching at LSUS are the students.

"It's just been a good experience, and I've been real

pleased with the students I've had," he said. "I've been very fortunate to have good students."

The students have also enjoyed Vassar's teaching.

"Vassar has the ability to encompass large amounts of information without sacrificing the content of the material," said Brad Bowen, senior political science major. "He's also open to students' comments at anytime."

Vassar takes the time to make sure all students are on the same level and understand the material.

"One of professor Vassar's strong suits is keeping the class moving in a positive direction," said Michael Schneider, senior political science major. "It seems in a class like philosophy everyone has an opinion. That's great, but he is good at getting everyone to stay focused and on topic."

With the help of fellow faculty members, Vassar is adjusting well to LSUS. "I've had a lot of support from the other faculty and from the administration," he said. "They have been very encouraging about getting the philosophy and religious studies programs going. So that has been good."

Vassar is currently working on getting his doctorate in religious studies from Baylor University and hopes to finish it this fall.

"We're real happy to have somebody who can offer the students such a good perspective on religious studies," said Dr. Michael Leggiere, assistant professor of history. "He really gets involved with the philosophy classes and is bringing in some new teaching techniques. We're really happy to have him."

Student ambassadors get chance to represent LSUS in community

by
Tiffany Johnson

As Student Ambassadors, students have the opportunity to represent the University and encourage other students to attend LSUS.

Flyers posted around the University at the beginning of the semester encouraged students to apply for a position as a Student Ambassador.

"Student Ambassadors serve as ambassadors for the University in the capacity of a student," said Julie Wilkins, registrar and director of admissions.

Student Ambassadors have many responsibilities. An ambassador must assist admission counselors with recruitment into the University; they must also attend at least three college fairs during the semester. Ambassadors have the opportunity to travel throughout the Shreveport/Bossier area and neighboring cities to recruit high

school students.

While some students may not be familiar with the Student Ambassador position, others are fully aware of how rewarding an opportunity as an ambassador can be. Justin Reneau is a freshman Student Ambassador who said he enjoys his job.

Reneau said he found out about the available Student Ambassador position through Michael Valentine, who is an admissions counselor for the University. Reneau said he applied for the position because it sounded like a fun job.

"Being a Student Ambassador is also a great way to meet new people," said Reneau.

Sophomore biology major, Tina Marks served as a Student Ambassador in the spring 2002 semester. "I enjoyed my job so much I am applying for this position again this fall," said Marks.

Marks said she enjoyed her job because it was a fun opportuni-

ty. One of the most rewarding aspects of her job as a Student Ambassador was having the opportunity to recruit incoming freshman from her graduating high school, Minden High.

Marks said if she had to rank her former position as a Student Ambassador on a scale of one to 10, she would she would definitely rank it a 10.

Interested students can apply for the position as a Student Ambassador through the Office of Admissions. According to the Student Ambassador application, students applying for the Ambassador position must be full-time.

The student also must be in good academic standing with the University. In order to do the job well, students are also encouraged to have a positive outlook towards the University. Students have to be able to work 13 hours each week in the Office of Admissions.

Student Ambassador is a paid position.

Helen Powell, LSUS graduate, works on Ph.D. while teaching

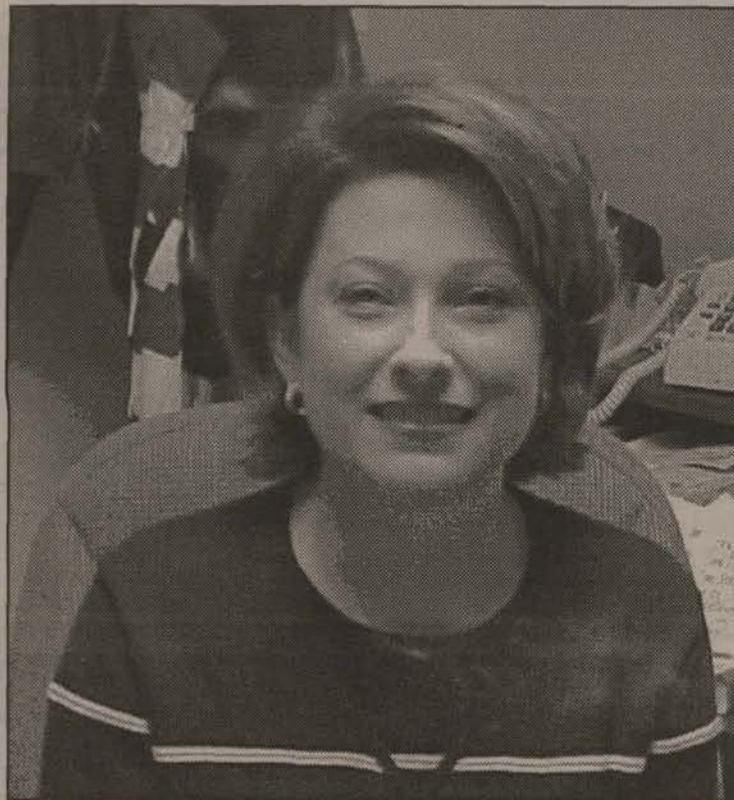


Photo by Dominic Claiborne

Helen Powell is working on her Ph.D in applied sociology at Baylor University while teaching sociology classes at LSUS.

by
Angela Gehrls

She's an LSUS sociology teacher. She's a student at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She's Helen Powell, and on Dec. 21 she'll be

Dr. Powell.

While juggling work for her dissertation and the courses she teaches has been difficult, Powell is very enthusiastic about both.

"The driving back and forth was difficult physically, but mentally I enjoyed it because I didn't have to

focus on one all the time," she said. "When I was here I wasn't worried necessarily about what was going on with my dissertation, but when I was there I could get away from my responsibilities here."

Powell was teaching Monday through Thursday, then driving four hours to Waco every Friday to attend her classes at Baylor.

She said everyone has been very supportive of her during this time.

"Everyone was so nice and understanding that I was not here on Fridays, so I was able to go back and forth," she said.

Powell graduated with a bachelor's degree from LSUS in 1997 while working here full time, earned her master's at Baylor in 1999 and will be graduating from Baylor in December with a Ph.D. in applied sociology.

"Applied sociology is a little different from regular sociology because it's very much research-oriented and community-based research-oriented," she said.

She decided to do her dissertation on riverboat casino gambling and quality of life issues in Louisiana because it's a "relatively untapped area."

Powell said that her course work at Baylor has been a "humbling experience."

"Here, I have to make a lot of decisions. There I was able to go to someone else for help. That was a big support," she said.

It claims good people.

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LSUS honors victims of September 11th

Chancellor Marsala, LSUS students, faculty and staff joined members of the community including Rep. B. L. Shaw at 7:30 September 11, 2002 to remember the victims of last year's attacks on America. The flag was lowered to half mast to remember those who died.

Photos by Dominic Claiborne



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Damn, that's an ugly bird

by
J Willoughby

Over the past several weeks many students have probably noticed something different on the LSUS campus. Something feathery.

To those of you attending LSUS for the first time, no I'm not talking about the rooster, that's old news.

In fact, George (the rooster) seems rather normal in comparison to the ugly genetic experiment gone bad that has taken up residence here.

You've seen it: that creepy, chicken-turkey-vulture looking thing with the undersized head.

If you've ever been on the south side of campus early in the morning you may have heard its harassing, cackle-like noise.

Well come to find out, this unattractive bird is not a freak of nature.

In fact, they're common in many parts of the world.

Our unique new arrival is a type of fowl known as a guinea hen.

For all you biology majors, they are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Galliformes, and family Numididae.

Guineas, natives of Africa and Madagascar, were wild until ancient Greeks and Romans domesticated them. Like most domesticated fowl, guinea hens cannot fly, but are excellent runners.

But why would anyone want to have this thing around, you might wonder.

Well, there are a couple of reasons.

The first of these reasons is food. In many parts of the world guineas are raised by the thousands in giant coops.

No, they don't taste like chicken. They are actually said to have a gamey taste, more like duck than the Colonels' extra-crispy.

Although there are three domestic varieties (the pearl, the white, and the lavender), the pearl guinea is most commonly used. Alas, our bird is of the less tasty white variety.

The second reason for having these birds around is security.

That's right, security.

Although food is the original reason for domestication, it was a happy coincidence that these creatures also act as an alarm. The guinea hen has a loud, very noticeable call.

During the night and early

morning hours the guinea hen is usually at rest, perched in its favorite spot. In our bird's case that seems to be one of the large trees behind the Power Plant on the south side of campus.

During this time of rest the guinea will sound the alarm at the arrival of any man or beast, alerting all those in ear shot that someone or something is trespassing.

Often though, especially in our neck of the woods, guinea fowl are kept merely as oddities.

They act as a sort of living conversation piece, piquing the interest of any visitor.

It should also be mentioned, for those of you new to LSUS, that this is not the first time random fowl have shown up on our campus.

In the past three years we've gone through several of the plainer chicken/rooster variety.

Our current B.R.O.C. (Big Rooster On Campus) George has been kept company by Henrietta (R.I.P.) as well as a harem of two or three hens that appeared together a little over a year ago.

However, it can be safely said that our newly arrived guinea hen is by far the most physically unique fowl to grace our campus.

Port features art by student Lisa Arnold

by
Keziah Tsirigotis

The Port is featuring something magical, grotesque and charming. A sculpture, designed by Lisa Arnold, a sophomore psychology major and computer science and fine arts minor, sits high on the coffee bar, showing off a spirit of imagination.

Arnold named the spirited piece "3D Sea Scene" because it displays dolphins that are each creating his own expression of freedom.

The sculpture is made from items such as seashells found along a beach.

In creating the piece with the help of her daughter Janice Arnold, the sculptor used wood as the foundation, clay for the design of the dolphins, metal for the flying birds and sky blue paint as a mood setter.

In the three-D sea scene, Arnold uses the universal element water as the central element hold-

ing the piece together.

Arnold said that she was inspired to donate the sculpture because she saw the need for more student artwork to be on display.

"Whether it's a painting or something you've purchased, true art is the art of giving," Arnold said.

Manager of The Port Sue Brown did not hesitate to display the art created by the talented student.

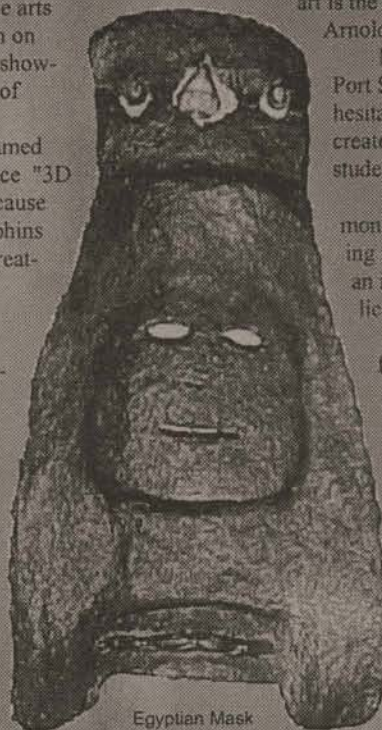
However, two months before displaying the art, Arnold had an interview with public affairs.

Arnold, the first student to donate a sculpture to The Port, said she chose the restaurant because it had just opened.

Other artwork created by Arnold includes an Egyptian mask and healing totems made from found items.

While some of

Arnold's work deals with nature, her pieces also touch on religion. Arnold donated a religious piece to the Vocational Rehab located on 70th Street and received recognition. Arnold also received a Student of the Year award from the American Humanities Department.



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